

## **Briefing Report - NHSE Consultations on Specialised Service Specifications and Commissioning Policies closing during April 2015**

### **Live Service Consultations:**

NHSE have 3 sets of consultations about acute hospital specialist service provision currently open:

1. 30th January 2015 consultation - covering 6 service specifications, together with commissioning policies for 4 services provided by LTHT. All but one of these consultations runs for 3 months, closing 29th April 2015.
2. 26th March 2015 consultation on paediatric epilepsy services, for 3 months closing 25th June 2015
3. 24th March 2015 consultation - covering 2 service specifications and 29 commissioning policies relevant to LTHT, closing 23rd April 2015.

### **Trust arrangements in respect of consultation:**

We are in the process of collating responses requested from our Clinical Service Units who have also been requested to encourage all clinicians to respond directly on the consultation hub, providing feedback as appropriate. They have also been asked to highlight any significant concerns about the appropriateness and reasonableness of requirements, or implications for service provision.

### **Current Assessment:**

#### **1. Feedback on the January consultations has been considered:**

- a. Critical Care - the draft service specification recommends medical staffing arrangements that are considered unlikely to be achievable across the country given the current workforce availability. We would wish to see recognition of the appropriateness of Advance Nurse Practitioners in delivering patient review in conjunction with surgical teams and other specialists, at least for Elective HDUs. We are considering the implications of recommendations in respect of other standalone HDUs. We are concerned about the onerous nature of ICNARC data collection and feel this should be addressed before this is accepted as a contract requirement for all HDUs.
- b. Hepatitis C service specification - there is clinical support for this specification - however this will have implications for the provision of

networked services across West Yorkshire and the Trust is considering what changes and investment is required to implement this.

- c. Fetal medicine - clinical teams support these recommendations.
- d. Complex gynaecology specifications - clinical teams support these recommendations. Further discussions are taking place to understand whether any further changes are required to become accredited.
- e. Commissioning policies - no concerns have been raised about the appropriateness of these.

### **2. Paediatric Epilepsy - please see separate agenda item.**

### **3. Further March consultations:**

These cover obesity services, hand transplantation, neuropathology, neurosurgery, pain management, cancer and specialised orthopaedics.

We are still completing our assessment of these specifications and policies, taking into account the specific service requirements, designation, audit and outcome requirements, as well as criteria for access to services.

A joint Weight Management commissioning group has been established and is developing recommendations for the provision of tier 2 and tier 3 services for the city, which are required by the obesity policies.

The hand surgery commissioning policy is welcomed, this recommends commissioning of up to 3 transplants per year from a single designated UK centre.